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reply to a remark of Dr. Holland of London, Dr. Jackson gave some account of the researches of Professor Daubeny of Oxford, England, who had been employed by the British government to investigate the economical value of the phosphate of lime of Estremadura, Spain. Prof. Daubeny found that the mineral phosphate of lime answered as well as bones in prepared phosphates for agriculture, but that the supply in Spain was too limited to be of much importance.

Three hundred and thirty-eighth meeting.

November 5, 1850. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

Professor Guyot, in behalf of the committee appointed to consider the expediency of recommending the adoption of the centigrade thermometrical scale, and the metrical barometrical scale, made a report, to which was appended a series of resolutions. A discussion of considerable length ensued, in which Messrs. Horsford, Lovering, B. A. Gould, Jr., Paine, Guyot, W. F. Channing, Peirce, Agassiz, Everett, and Treadwell took part; and the resolutions were amended and passed as follows: —

"1. *Resolved*, That the American Academy earnestly recommend the adoption of the metrical scale for the barometer destined for the observations made in behalf of the State of Massachusetts and of the Smithsonian Institution, not only for the sake of convenience, but also as a first step leading to a general adoption of the metrical system of weights and measures in scientific matters.

"2. As regards the thermometer, that the scale of Fahrenheit, in actual use in this country, be retained for the present.

"3. That a committee be appointed to consider the propriety and the practicability of introducing the modified Fahrenheit's scale mentioned in the report, or some other possessing similar advantages, as a universal scale, and to correspond with eminent meteorologists and scientific societies.

"4. That notice be given to the Smithsonian Institution of the opinion of the Academy on the subject of this report."

The Academy then

"*Voted*, That the committee to be appointed in pursuance of the foregoing resolutions consist of the gentlemen who reported them; viz. Messrs. Guyot, Agassiz, Peirce, Lovering, and B. A. Gould, Jr."

Professor Agassiz made an oral communication of considerable length upon the classification and homologies of radiated animals.

Professor Lovering read a part of a letter from Captain Lefroy, of the Toronto Observatory, to Mr. W. C. Bond, representing that there is danger that the magnetic observations at that place may be discontinued after next March, and expressing a desire that the Academy would use its influence in promoting their continuance for a further period of three years. He then offered the following resolutions, which, after some remarks by Mr. Guyot in their support, were adopted: —

"1. That, in the opinion of this Academy, it is highly desirable that the magnetical and meteorological observatory at Toronto should be sustained for another period of three years.

"2. That a committee be appointed to correspond with the American Minister at London, or with the Royal Society, as they may think best, with the view of urging upon the British government the scientific importance of prolonging their magnetical and meteorological operations in British America, and thus coöperating with similar observations to be made more or less extensively at different stations in the United States."

Hon. Edward Everett, Mr. W. C. Bond, Mr. Guyot, Professor Lovering, and Mr. J. P. Hall, were appointed a committee to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect.

Professor Lovering made some remarks upon the advantages of the French system of weights and measures over all others, and offered the following resolutions, which were adopted: —

"1. That the decimal system of weights and measures, based upon the French metre, possesses advantages which belong to no other system that has been adopted or proposed; that it is the only existing system which is symmetrical in its parts, simple in its reductions, and which maintains in its various denominations that invariable and recoverable value which adapts the observations and experiments recorded in it for ready and permanent use over all the world.

"2. That the Academy authorize the use of the system in their own publications, and recommend its adoption for scientific purposes wherever it is practicable."

On motion of Professor Agassiz, it was

"*Voted*, That these resolutions be communicated to other scientific bodies of a similar character to that of the Academy."

On motion of Professor Agassiz, it was

"*Voted*, That the Recording Secretary be authorized, with the concurrence of the President, to call a semi-monthly meeting of the Academy at their hall, whenever any Fellows shall have such an amount of scientific matter prepared for communication, as to render a special meeting expedient."

Three hundred and thirty-ninth meeting.

November 13, 1850. — QUARTERLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The President laid before the Academy two letters, written in the year 1796, by Count Rumford, to the late John Adams, then President of the Academy; among whose papers they were recently found by Hon. C. F. Adams, and by him transmitted to the President.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Academy: —

Professor Alexis Caswell, of Brown University.

Professor William Chauvenet, of the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.

Professor Lovering stated that Part II. of Vol. IV. of the Memoirs of the Academy would be printed in a week or two, and that two papers of the fifth volume were already printed.

In accordance with an arrangement made by Dr. Bowditch, the children represented to be Aztecs, from Central America, were exhibited to the Academy. They excited much interest. The boy presented, in the form of his head and the expres-